Advancing Well-Designed Water Trading Programs in California

Christina Babbitt, Environmental Defense Fund
California Water Commission Meeting

June 16, 2021

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ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND
Finding the ways that work

EDF's CALIFORNIA WATER PROGRAM APPROACH

Pilots

- Well Designed Water Trading Programs
- Multi-benefit Land Repurposing

Data

- OpenET
- Water Accounting & Trading Platform

Guidance

- White papers
- Reports
- Decision support tools

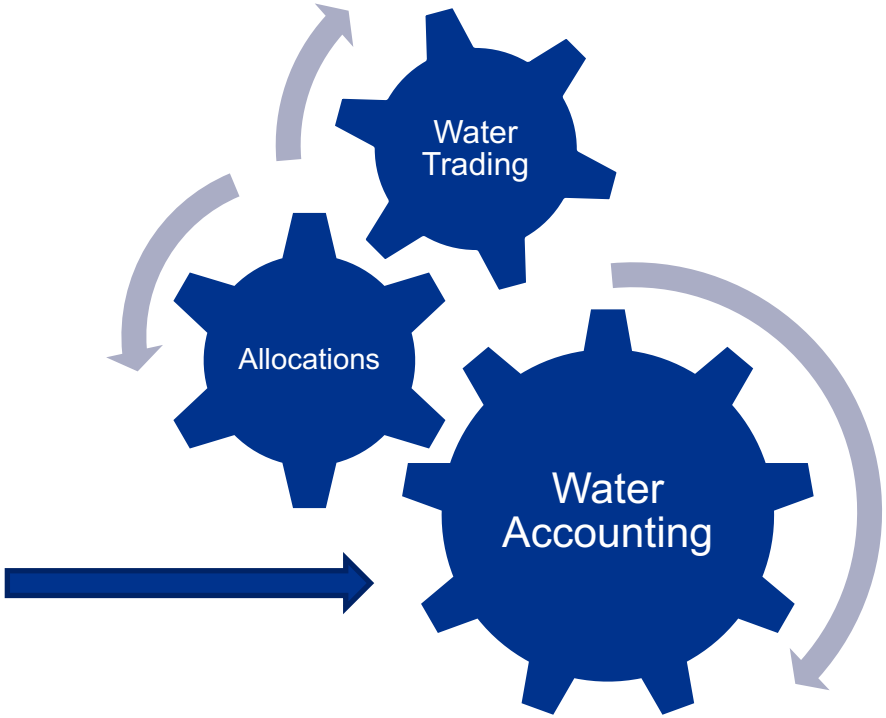
Engagement

- Leadership Institute
- UC Merced partnership

Why are well-designed groundwater trading programs important?

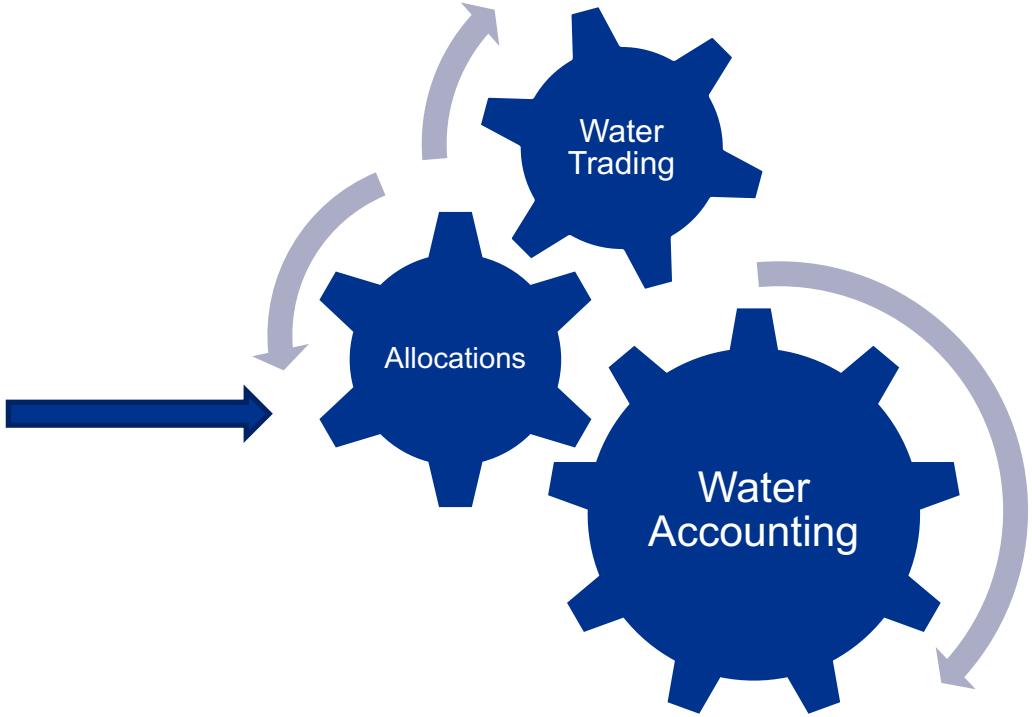
Building the foundation to support well-designed water trading programs

Foundation of sustainable groundwater management



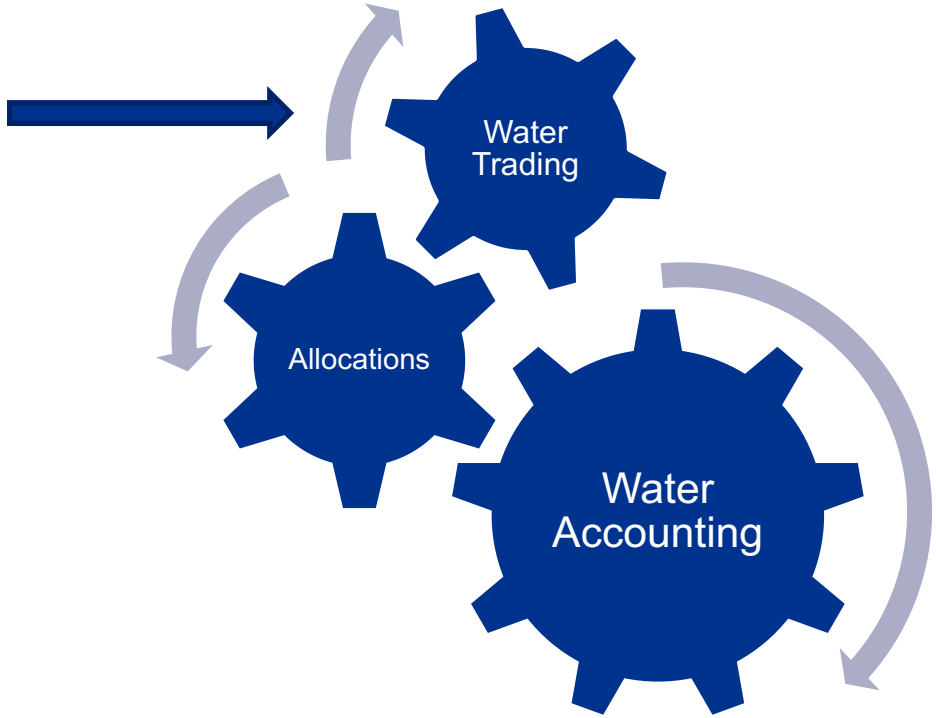
Building the foundation to support well-designed water trading programs

In many subbasins, groundwater overdraft conditions will require GSAs to impose reductions in pumping and establish groundwater allocations



Building the foundation to support well-designed water trading programs

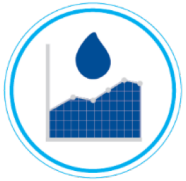
Trading is one important strategy for more flexibly managing scarce water resources…but water trading is not a panacea



Well-designed water trading programs include…

Community engagement

Allocations to meet diverse needs



Water budget & accounting

Well-designed trading rules

Monitoring & reporting

Flexibility & adjustment

Advancing well-designed water trading programs in practice

Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Accounting Platform

Welcome to the Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District Water Accounting Platform. The platform is designed to meet these objectives:

- Create a better understanding of water demand and supplies, for Landowners to effectively and efficiently make informed decisions regarding water supply and land use.
- Utilize a satellite based evapotranspiration model, called OpenET, to give landowners a past and present understanding of water demands on their specific parcels.
- Over the long term, develop the accounting platform into a trading platform, encouraging in-district water transfers.

Access Your Water Account

Sign In to view your Water Account. Create a User Profile if you don't have one yet.

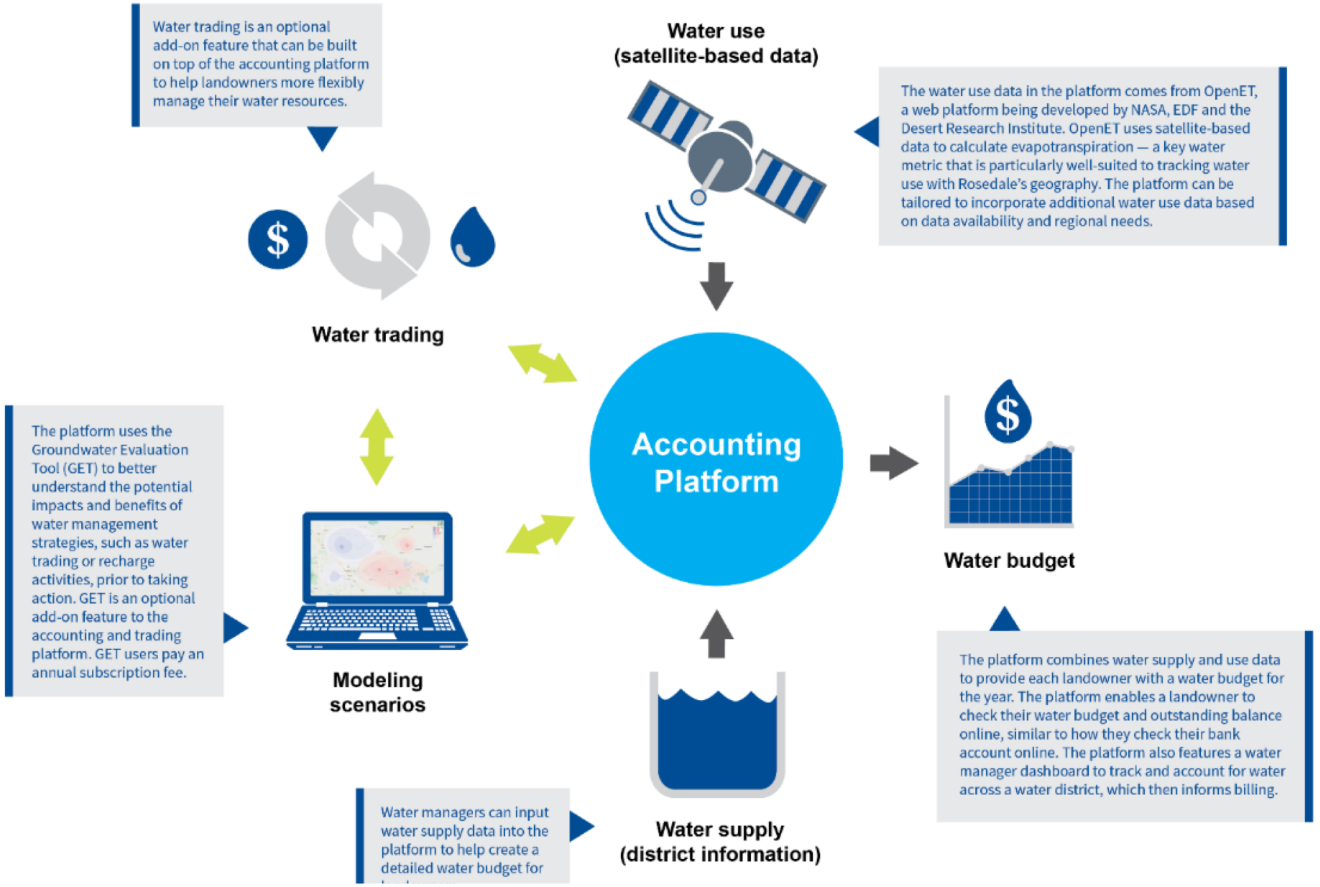
Sign In

Create User Profile

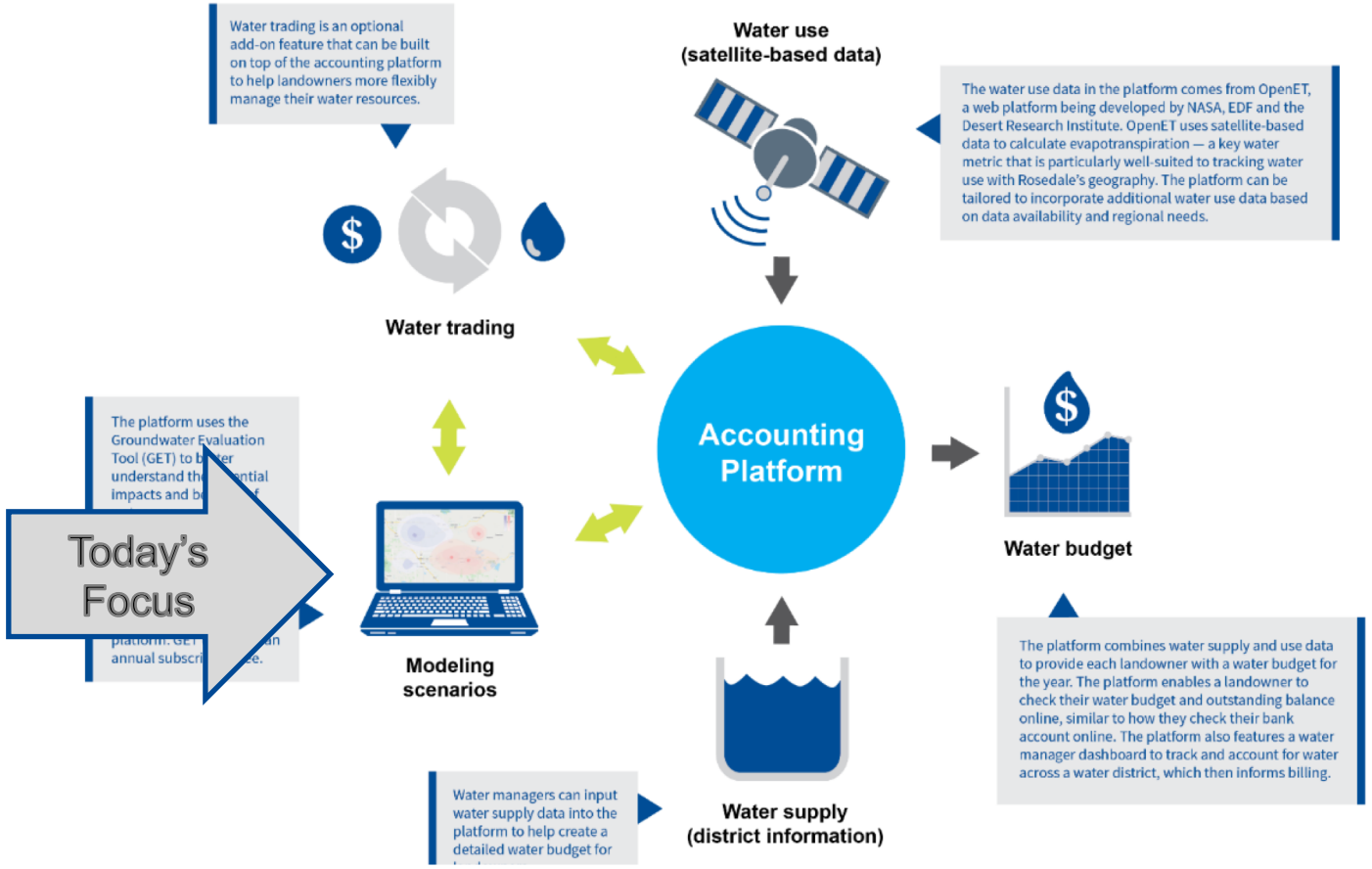
Need help logging in?

Forgot Password | Forgot Username | Request Support

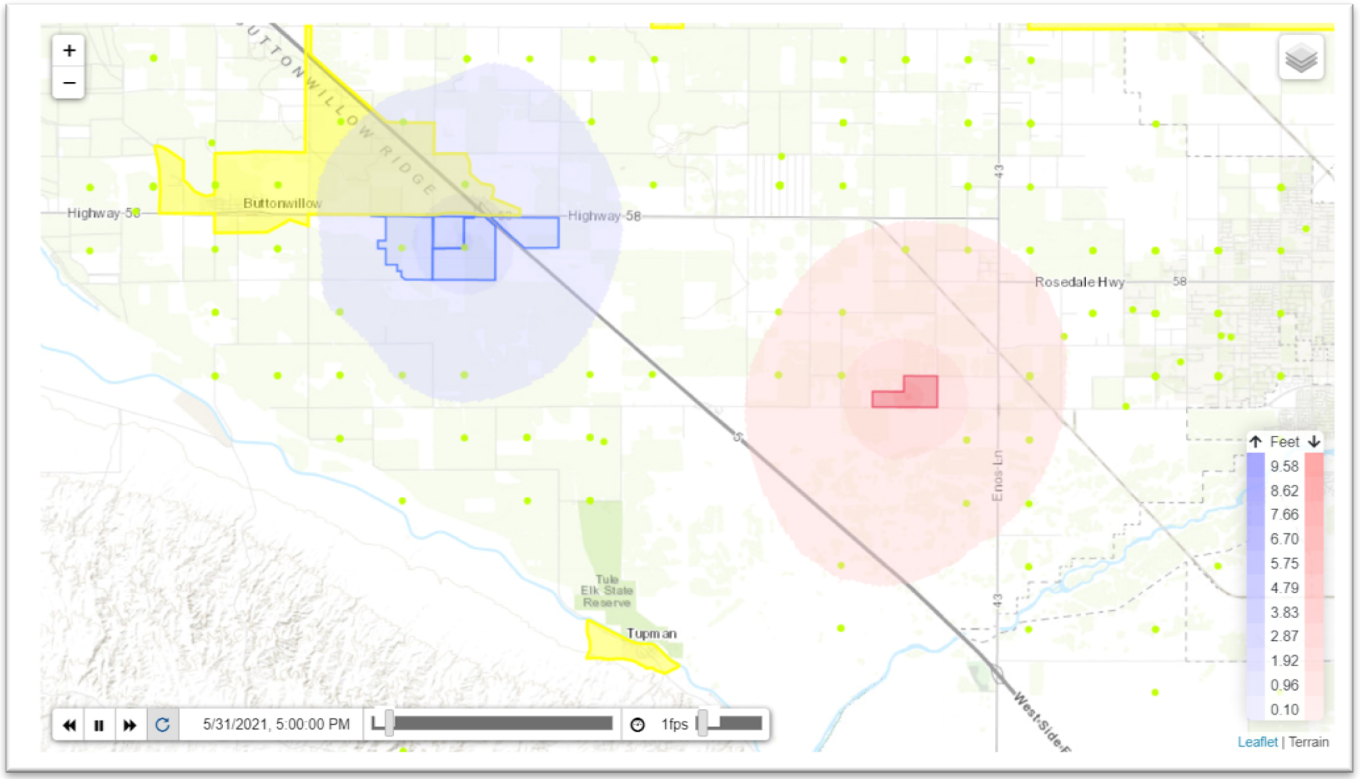
Open-Source Water Accounting and Trading Platform



Open-Source Water Accounting and Trading Platform



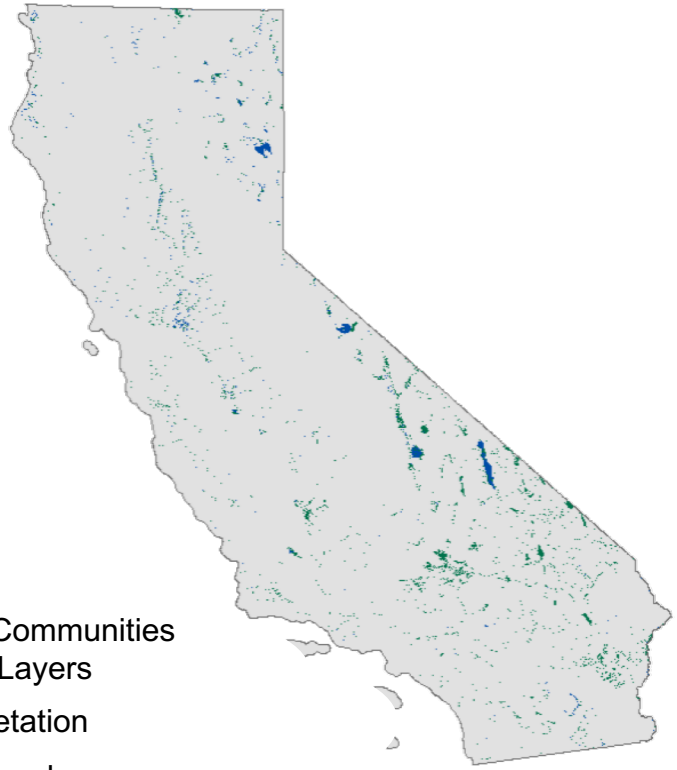
Understanding how a water trading program can affect groundwater levels



- Seller parcel
- Buyer parcel
- Disadvantaged community
- Domestic well

olsson

Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems



Natural Communities Dataset Layers

- Vegetation
- Wetlands

Ecological communities or species that depend on groundwater emerging from aquifers or on groundwater occurring near the ground surface

GDE Resources: https://groundwaterresourcehub.org/

Partnering to Scale the Open-Source Water Accounting Platform

- Integration of additional data inputs
- Expansion of accounting functionality
- Co-development of common groundwater data standards
- Integration of open-source scenario planning and visualization features

California Water Data Consortium

EDF Environmental Defense Fund — Finding the ways that work

California Water Boards — State Water Resources Control Board, Regional Water Quality Control Boards

Department of Water Resources, State of California

Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District

Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency

KERN Groundwater Authority

Sonoma Water

Considerations

- How can robust water accounting systems be designed to best support water trading?
- What is the role of the state?
- How can stakeholders be more engaged and transparency be improved?
- How can protections for communities and wildlife be guaranteed?
- What should oversight look like?

Opportunities

- Greater flexibility to manage scare water resources
- Access to new datasets, resources, and tools
- Opportunity to come together to learn and better understand how water trading programs can be developed to meet diverse needs

Thank you!

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